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presentations which occur, if not throughout the whole, at least in the descriptions of several important places. Take, for instance, Belfast, the town in which I reside, and which is declared to be "a modern, *industrious*, and *enterprising* sea-port town, which belongs to the county Antrim, but extends into the county Down,"—a style of phraseology, by the way, which might be suspected to have come from the pen of some potato-fed Patlaúder, did not the after part demonstrate that the writer knew no more of the country than my grandmother did of the *galopades*—take this admirably described town, I say, and you will find that its *custom-house* and excise-offices are stated to be both handsome and suitable buildings, while the fact is that the place which goes by the name of the *custom-house* is by no means half so respectable as some of the stables in the rear of Dame-street, in your city—it is an actual disgrace to the town. Again, we are informed that the principal church is that of St. Anne, a handsome edifice in Donegal-street; now St. Anne's church has nothing either handsome or beautiful about it, while there is a church, or chapel of ease, built within the last ten or fifteen years, of which not the slightest notice is taken, although it is esteemed a truly elegant structure, its portico being composed of the materials which once formed the front of Ballyscullen palace, erected on an Athenian model, by a late Bishop of Derry. We are further told that a Roman Catholic chapel, *recently constructed*, stands at the rise of a *gentle hill*, and at the *extremity* of one of the best streets; while the fact is, that the self same chapel is more than twenty years built, is situated on no eminence at all, and holds its place nearly midway in the street, surrounded on all sides by buildings of considerable standing. Again, it is stated that the new streets and squares are neat, regular, brick buildings, &c. without one word being said relative to several elegant public buildings, faced with cut-stone, which tend greatly to beautify the town—nor, in fact, is there any improvement mentioned which has taken place here during the last fifteen years. But, more than this, Sir, we are informed by this veracious volume, that *linen* is the principal manufacture in Belfast! and that *salmon* and *other fish* are among the *exports*; now I suppose I need scarcely inform you that while there are eight large cotton-mills in the town and neighbourhood, giving employment to more than 30,000 persons, there is scarcely, I might almost say there is not, a single web of linen manufactured within the precincts of the place; and as to *salmon* and *other fish* being exported, it is enough to say, that there is not a salmon-fishery of any consequence nearer than Coleraine, a distance of forty-five miles, and that fish may be had nearly as cheap in Dublin as we can procure it here. But I think I have gone sufficiently far to induce both Dr. Lardner and his critics to look to this work;—though, unfortunately, it is no new thing for an Irishman to forget his own country.—Your obedient servant,

W.

Belfast, Oct. 15th, 1830.

CRITICAL NOTICES.

An Essay on the Book of Genesis; being an attempt to reconcile the incongruities in the Mosaic Account of the Creation of the World. Dublin: Wakeman.
To the philosopher and man of science, there cannot be a more interesting study, than the subjects treated of in this little

work—the history of the creation of the world—its first inhabitants—the account given us of the deluge—and the various circumstances connected with the repopling of our globe, after that extraordinary event. Various are the attacks which have, from time to time, been made

upon the account given by Moses in the first books of the Pentateuch, relative to these great and important events. Never was there a period, during which greater efforts were made to overthrow, if possible, the Mosaic theory, than during the last century; nor was there ever a time in which stronger proofs were brought forward in its support, by the researches of men of learning and science. Never was it more necessary, however, to bring forward the various arguments in favour of the statements given in the volume of Inspiration, than the present, when many following that "will-o'-the-wisp," "the march of intellect," have been induced to quit the beaten paths, thereby not unfrequently losing their way, in the mists of scepticism and error, or getting fairly swamped in the quagmire of infidelity. We, therefore, notice with pleasure the present unpretending little essay, as one well calculated to lead the inquiring mind into a right way of thinking—to furnish ideas sufficient to induce further inquiry, to the more perfect understanding of a subject, on which some of the greatest philosophers that ever lived have exerted their energies in vain, and been led into mazes of difficulty, from which they have never after been able to extricate themselves. By the way, its appearance at the present moment is rather opportune, as we perceive Mr. Keightley, the Author of "Outlines of History," which forms a volume of Mr. Lardner's "Cabinet Cyclopædia," has been rather roughly handled, on account of the manner in which he has treated the subject in his introductory chapters. The object of the little work before us, is to show that there is no actual inconsistency in the Mosaic account of the creation, deluge, &c.—that it is not at all at variance with the theory of Cuvier, that the world must have been in existence many thousand years before the time referred to by Moses, as that of the creation, and must have undergone several mighty changes before that event—the creatures which had previously existed upon it, having been destroyed by some extraordinary convulsion, and buried in its ruins, where their remains are still found.—This subject has, we perceive, been taken up in a clear and forcible manner in the first Number of the "Edinburgh Cabinet Library," just published—and as it is one of very general interest, we shall probably take an early opportunity of examining the arguments which have been adduced on either side of the question. Besides the internal evidence the Sacred Volume affords of the truth of the Mosaic account, the Author has adduced numerous collateral proofs from Jewish and other writers, particularly from Josephus. He endeavours to show, that the record

was not a mere revelation to Moses, but that it was handed down from one generation to another, most probably in writing, from Adam himself, to whom he supposes it was revealed by God in the garden of Eden. In showing the correctness of the several descriptions, he endeavours to reconcile those passages which may appear paradoxical, and to meet the objections brought forward by the sceptic; and among other arguments, adduces the evidence derived from the circumstance of great nations, completely separated from each other from time immemorial, all retaining some traditional accounts of the creation and the flood, which agree in many striking particulars; and we fully agree with the Author, that "it is a great support to the truth of the Mosaic relation, when nations so far removed from the original seat of mankind have such account of these remarkable events as Humboldt gives in the first and second volumes of his researches."

While, however, we are quite agreed with him in the general tendency of his arguments, we are not altogether sure that his theories will, in every instance, be found correct. We differ from the generally received opinion, that there was no rain, and consequently no rainbow before the flood; or that such an order of things was so arranged by the Creator, in order to allow of a sufficient quantity of water being collected in the clouds, to enable him to bring a deluge on the earth as he did. We consider that before the flood, effects followed causes in the same natural way they do at present, and that consequently there were both rain and rainbow as there are now; but we consider that the waters of the great deep not having spread so extensively over the earth's surface—the phenomenon of the rainbow may only have been visible in particular regions—the clouds in other parts having been dissipated by the heat, or fallen in a kind of dew. The deluge having completely altered the general appearance of the earth, and the waters being scattered over it—the rainbow would necessarily present itself to the attention of Noah—and we understand the passage in Genesis, not as meaning that the Almighty placed it in the clouds for the purpose mentioned—but as saying that as long as it would appear, which would necessarily be while the world lasted, so long a second deluge should not take place. The entire difficulty vanishes in looking to the proper rendering of this passage. We have somewhere seen a much more elegant solution of the difficulty relative to the quantity of water, sufficient to cover the entire surface of the earth, than our Author gives. We think it is in "Stack's Chemistry" the author we allude to, observes that "the quantity of

water contained in the air is very considerable, so that were all that is dissolved in it precipitated, there would probably be enough to cover the earth's entire surface, not only to the height of thirty-two feet, i. e. the height of a column of water equi-ponderant to a column of the atmosphere, (as some have supposed) but to an indefinite height. The supposition that thirty-two feet was the limited height, was founded on the hypothesis, that the pressure of the air was intimately connected with the quantity of water contained in it: but daily observations show that this opinion is unfounded. During a long summer's drought there is a continued absorption of water into the air; therefore, on this hypothesis, the barometer should be continually rising; but, on the contrary, it is found to be stationary during the whole time, at thirty inches, or a little more: and, what is still more extraordinary, when the drought is about to have an end, while the air yet contains the whole quantity of water it had absorbed, and has not parted with a single drop, it becomes suddenly lighter, and the mercury will sink perhaps an inch. And after the atmosphere has been discharging for a number of days a fluid eight hundred times heavier than itself, instead of being lightened by the discharge, it becomes heavier, and even specifically heavier than it was before. From these remarks, and from the large quantities of water proved to exist at the greatest depths below the surface, it is evident, that the system of nature contained ample materials for effecting the universal deluge. And if (as many have with great probability maintained) the atmosphere owes its solvent power, or a great share of it, to electricity, a conjecture, perhaps not unreasonable, may be formed, of the manner in which the deluge was produced. We are assured by undeniable observations, that electricity is able to swell up the water on the surface of the earth; the agitation of the sea in earthquakes is a proof of this; for, at the same time, there is a discharge of a vast quantity of electric matter into the air, and as soon as this happens, all becomes quiet on the surface of the earth. From a multitude of observations it appears also, that there is at all times a passage of electric matter from the atmosphere into the earth, and vice versa from the earth into the atmosphere. There is no absurdity in supposing that the Deity influenced the action of the natural powers, in such a manner, that for forty days and nights, the electric matter contained in the atmosphere should descend into the bowels of the earth; the consequence would be, 'the breaking up of the fountains of the deep, and opening the windows of heaven.' The water contained in the atmosphere being left with-

out support, would descend in impetuous rains, while the waters of the ocean, those from which the fountains originate, and those contained in the solid earth itself, would rise from the very centre, and meet the waters which descended from above. Thus the breaking up of the fountains of the deep, and the opening the windows of heaven, would accompany each other, as Moses tells us they actually did; for, according to him, both happened on the same day. The abatement of the waters would ensue on the ascent of the electric fluid to where it was before: the atmosphere would then absorb the water as formerly; that which had ascended through the earth would again subside, and thus every thing would return to its former state."

Our space will not permit us to enter more fully into the subject at present; but we shall probably take an early opportunity of recurring to it, as it is one rendered extremely interesting and important, by the discoveries of Cuvier, and other geologists of the present day.

Narrative of Discovery and Adventure in the Polar Seas and Regions: with Illustrations of their Climate, Geology, and Natural History; and an account of the Whale-Fishery. By Professor Leslie, Professor Jameson, and Hugh Murray, Esq. F. R. S. A. Edinburgh—Oliver and Boyd—1890.

Next to the inquiry respecting the original formation of our globe, there cannot be a more profitable or a more interesting occupation than an investigation of its present condition—the inhabitants by whom it is now peopled—the productions of its various climes—the manner in which the inhabitants in its various divisions are employed—the progress of civilization—and the state of trade and commerce. Nor do we know a more pleasing occupation of a winter's evening, when comfortably seated by our fire-side, than to take up a well-written volume of voyages, and thus while we hear "the pelting of the pitiless storm," unmoved by the tempest which may lash the ocean into foam, or, unchilled by the cold which may be freezing it into solid masses in the neighbourhood of the frigid zones, accompany Captain Cooke in his researches among the islands of the South Sea; or with Captains Parry and Lyon, pay a passing visit to the arctic regions, visiting by the way the dreary hut of the Esquimaux and Greenlanders, and observing, as we proceed, the means used to overcome and capture the leviathan of the deep at the whale fisheries—the numerous perils and daring adventures of those employed in the arduous undertaking, as well as the more simple, though not less successful stratagems employed by the natives of